Menu

imborivungu

Object Type

imborivungu

Museum number

Af1932,0516.8

Description

Imborivungu (owl-pipe), voice-disguiser; made of human bone; leg bone with clay head almost entirely covered in mud and pink glass beads at one end, white glass button eyes, brass bells around neck, cowrie shells at bottom; hole carved in middle of bone; end opposite head stuffed with cotton.

Production ethnic group

Made by: Tiv

Production date

1932 (before)(before)

Production place

Made in: Nigeria
Africa: sub-Saharan Africa: Nigeria

Excavator/field collector

Field Collection by: Roy C Abraham

Findspot

Found/Acquired: Wukari
Africa: sub-Saharan Africa: Nigeria: Taraba (Nigeria): Wukari

Materials

human bone (?)
clay
mud
glass
brass
cowrie shell
cotton

Technique

carved
beadwork

Dimensions

Height: Height: 33 centimetres
Width: Width: 4.50 centimetres
Depth: Depth: 5.50 centimetres

Curator's comments

C Ardouin: The identification of this voice disguiser imborivungu (or owl-pipe) as probably made of human bone is based on available ethnographic information which suggests that such ritual objects originally used to be made out of human femur, normally the femur of the ancestor of the minimal tar (territorial group). Later the imborivungu were made also out of… View more

Location

Not on display

Acquisition name

From: Wukari Native Administration

Acquisition date

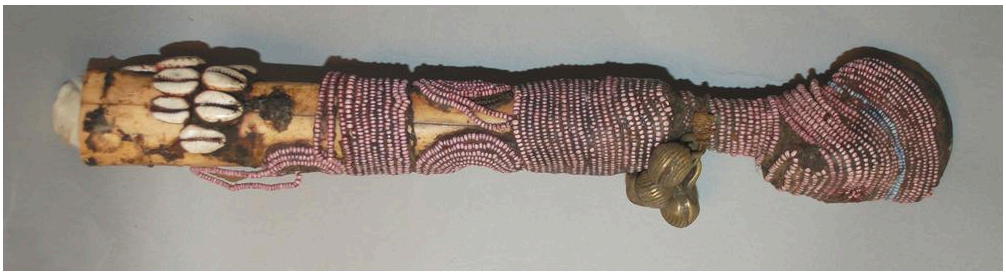
1932

Acquisition notes

Af1932,0516.1 to 41 is a collection made by Roy C Abrahams (see biography), and was given by the Wukari Native Administration in Makurdi, Benue Province, for which he was working as Government Anthropologist. It was recorded as a "series of religious cult objects mainly of the Mba Tsav secret society of the Tiv (Munshi) tribe, Wukari division, Benue… View more

Department

Africa, Oceania and the Americas

Registration number

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